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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of

Inventor: HOHENSTEIN

Atty. Ref.: 511-68

Serial No. 10/534,759

Group: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: December 6, 2005

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: A SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

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April 19, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. The attached Form PTO-1449, which was originally filed with the present application, lists the references identified in the International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/ZA03/00132 corresponding to the present application. Although the International Search Report was submitted to the USPTO at the time this application was filed, it is not clear whether the two foreign references identified in the International Search Report and listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 were submitted at that time. Accordingly, the two foreign references are being submitted herewith.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached Form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the cited references have been considered and made of record.

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Submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that no better references exist, or that any submitted reference is material merely because it has been cited herein. If there are any questions regarding this submission, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

It is believed that no fee for filing this Information Disclosure Statement is due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fee that may be due to the deposit account of Nixon & Vanderhye, Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
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511-68

unknown

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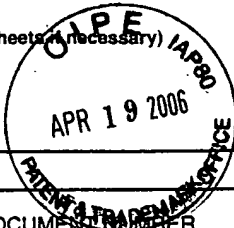
Filing Date

TC/A.U.

May 13, 2005

unknown

(Use several sheets if necessary)



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	6,074,598 A	06/2000	KOFFRON			
	4,769,066 A	09/1988	EIDEM			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
02/04919 A	01/2002	WO				
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)

	International Search Report of PCT/ZA03/00132 mailed 29 December 2003

*Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.